
Regional Council Activity Report

May 28, 2008



Executive Director's Report

At the beginning of the May Regional Council meeting, the Council thanked the departing Regional Council members for their service to the MAG region. These included Mesa Mayor Keno Hawker, Buckeye Mayor Bobby Bryant and Paradise Valley Mayor Ed Winkler. Although he couldn't attend the meeting, departing Fountain Hills Mayor Wally Nichols was also recognized. In their own way, each of these individuals contributed to this region and they will be missed.

Many times, the MAG process asks elected officials to make difficult decisions on complex topics. We appreciate the regional leadership displayed by our current and departing Regional Council members. Regional Council members act for the good of the region and this region is better for their decisions in transportation, air quality and human services.

With the great change this region is experiencing, it is even more important that we welcome the new members to the Regional Council, listen to their ideas and give everyone an opportunity to make a difference for the betterment of the region.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.

Regional Council Meeting Report for Wednesday, May 28, 2008.



Action Items

Goldfield Ranch 208 Amendment Approved

The Regional Council voted to approve the Preserve at Goldfield Ranch Water Reclamation Facility as part of the MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan.

The Regional Council's approval came following a number of modifications and assurances from the applicant's legal counsel. The Regional Council's motion for approval acknowledged that Maricopa County formed a County Improvement District on August 8, 2007, for the "purposes of acquiring, owning, operating and maintaining the treatment plant once constructed." The motion also called for MAG to forward to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality issues that are appropriate to be resolved in the Aquifer Protection Permit process for the facility, including injection of reclaimed water into the same aquifer that will be used for a drinking water source, and a specific sludge management plan for the facility.

The approval by the Regional Council came after extensive review of the facility during a number of committee meetings over the past seven months.

For more information, please contact Julie Hoffman, Environmental Planner, (602) 254-6300.

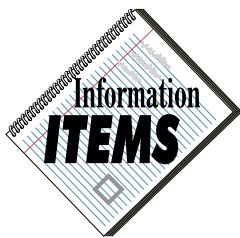
Interim Closeout of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2008 MAG Federally Funded Program

The MAG Regional Council approved a list of projects to be carried forward from federal fiscal year (FFY) 2008 to FFY 2009 or later, and approved a list of projects requesting removal of federal funds.

The FFY 2008 Interim Closeout established that member agencies submitted requests to defer or delete federal funds from projects for approximately \$40.1 million. As a result, the amount of funds available during the interim closeout is approximately \$14.7 million.

Information regarding the FFY 2008 Closeout is available on the MAG Web site on the Transportation Improvement Program Web page.

For more information, please contact Eileen Yazzie, Transportation Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Information Items

Statewide Transportation Survey

The Regional Council received an update from WestGroup Research summarizing the topline findings of a Statewide Transportation Survey commissioned by MAG. The purpose of the study was to evaluate overall awareness of and attitudes toward transportation issues and possible solutions. The statewide survey of 1,224 high-efficacy voters was conducted in late March and early April. Here are just a few of the key findings from the survey:

- Illegal immigration and the economy top the list of the most important issues voters believe Arizona is currently facing, followed by education, gas prices and the budget deficit.
- The perceived lack of public transit is most frequently cited as the most important transportation issue facing Arizona, particularly among Maricopa County voters, while the issue of high gas prices is most often cited by voters living in the outlying areas of the state.
- The majority of voters—both those living within Maricopa and in other counties—indicate they experience the most traffic delays within Maricopa County when they travel around the state.

- Voters across the state are most likely to indicate they would support additional taxes for more freeway lanes and increased routes and frequency for public transit. Voters are least likely to agree that they would support a tax increase for transportation if it means the sales tax in their community would exceed 10%.
- The only two transportation funding options garnering support from a majority of voters are increased developer fees and dedicating a portion of the future growth in existing tax revenues to support transportation.
- Slightly more than half of the voters statewide (54%) indicate they would vote “yes” on a one-percent increase in statewide sales tax for transportation in November 2008, with the largest percentage (30%) indicating they would “probably” vote yes, and with 24 percent saying they would definitely vote yes. More than one in four voters indicate they would “definitely” vote no (27%), and 15% “probably” no.

For more survey results, visit <http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=8875>. A final report will be completed by mid-June.

For more information, please contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.



Next Regional Council Meeting

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is the joint Annual Meeting and Desert Peaks Awards scheduled for Wednesday, June, 2008, at 5:00 p.m. at the Arizona Biltmore, Mesa Room (adjacent to Arizona Ballroom), 2400 E. Missouri, Phoenix. **Please note the location change.** Agenda items are expected to include election of officers for the Regional Council and Transportation Policy Committee; approval of the Draft FY 2009 Arterial Life Cycle Program contingent on a new Finding of Conformity for the amendment to the Regional Transportation Plan 2007 Update and FY 2008-2012 MAG Transportation Improvement Program; and an update on regional heat relief planning efforts. Additional items are pending.

For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.